

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the title on page 1, insert the following heading:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 17, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 19, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Looking at Figures 1 and 2, in a classical transmission of information messages between two computer terminals, respectively a transmitter 1 and a receiver 2 through a communication line. At stage 101 (Figure 2), the transmitter 1 reads a secret key in

order to perform on the contents of message M a calculation of a signature S at a stage [[103]] 102, whereby said signature is then attached to the contents of the message in order to create a signed message, which optionally undergoes an encoding operation C, stage 103, whereby the encoded signed message  $(M,S)^c$  is then transmitted at a stage 105 to the receiver 2 over the communication line.--